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INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 01, CIA 0
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R 140830Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8817
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL DANANG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/21/82
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8570

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: CHAU DOC

REF : SAIGON 5959

1. AS OF OCT 12, 19 OF 30 CANDIDATES WHO FILED FOR CHAU DOC'S 4 VIETNAMESE SEATS REMAIN IN THE LOWER HOUSE RACE. CANDIDATES LE VAN LUONG, HUYNH HUNG LONG, TRAN VAN NAM, AND LAM VAN TRUNG, HAVE WITHDRAWN. HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) CANDIDATES HUYNH HUU PHI AND LE QUANG KHAI WITHDREW AT THE REQUEST OF SDP

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LEADER PHAM BA CAM (NOTEWORTHY THAT VO QUANG VINH, CANDIDATE OF TRINH QUOC KHANH FACTION OF SDP, REMAINS IN THE RACE). MILITARY CANDIDATES LT. DAO KHUONG NINH, CAPTAIN NGUYEN TAN PHUOC AND LT. VU HUY THAM, WERE DENIED LEAVE. NGO CAN BANG HAD NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE. AS BEFORE IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN 1966, CHAM MOHAMMED ALY FILED HIS APPLICATION ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CHAM SEAT IN CHAU DOC. HE WAS REJECTED.

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2. LOWER HOUSE RACE IS CONFUSED IN CHAU DOC AS IN AN GIANG BECAUSE DISORGANIZED HOA HAO CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS FAILED TO DESIGNATE HOA HAO CANDIDATES. OF 19 CANDIDATES, 15 ARE BELIEVED TO BE HOA HAO. NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATES ARE PLACING HOPE ON FACT THAT HOA HAO VOTE WILL BE SPLIT AMONG LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.

3. LEADING HOA HAO CANDIDATES:

HUYNH VAN LAU, B. CHAU DOC 1922, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY. DESPITE VOTER COMPLAINTS ~~THAT MOST~~ CA DEPUTIES FAILED TO DO ANY-THING FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS, LAU IS SAID TO RETAIN CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN CHAU DOC BECAUSE HE HAS KEPT UP HIS LOCAL CONTACTS.

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LAU HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OFPL SGVN SUZ CANDIDATE VO VAN IVFM CLAIMS THAT LAU AND CANDIDATE VO VAN NHAN HAVE BEEN SPREADING TRUONG DINH DZU-TYPE PEACE SLOGANS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. LAU WAS UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR SENATE ELECTIONS IN LIST 42 WHICH CAME IN SECOND WITH 30,573 VOTES IN CHAU DOC.

HO VAN LANG, B. CHAU DOC 1908. CHAU DOC'S OTHER CA DEPUTY IS GIVEN SOMEWHAT LESS CHANCE THAN LAU (WHO PREDICTS THAT LANG WILL LOSE BY WIDE MARGIN). OTHER OBSERVERS THINK LANG HAS A CHANCE AS WELL DESPITE HIS INACTIVITY IN CAN AND RELATIVELY OLD AGE.

VO VAN GIOI, B. CHAU DOC 1928. VICE CHAIRMAN OF HOA HAO GENERAL LAM THANH NGUYEN'S HOA HAO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF CHAU DOC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. GIOI HAS TRIED TO KEEP FOOTHOLD AMONG VARIOUS HOA HAO GROUPS AND IS CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY. GIOI HAS FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE SUPPORTED BY FARMER, WORKER, LABOR PARTY OF GENERAL TRAN VAN DON.

LE CHON TINH, B. KIEN HOA 1928. LEADING HOA HAO WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN CHAU DOC FOR SOME TIME. FORMERLY AN OFFICER IN HOA HAO ARMY. REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY LE PHUOC SANG, WHO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER KY.

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4. HOA HAO CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE:

NGUYEN HUU TRINH, B. AN GIANG 1918. MEMBER OF CHAU DOC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. POPULAR BUT POOR. SUPPORTED BY LUONG TRONG TUONG FACTION OF HOA HAO.

NGUYEN THAI BAO, B. CHAU DOC 1913. SUPPORTED BY LAM THANH NGUYEN, ALONG WITH GIOI, SAN CHAU CANTON CHIEF DANG VAN CU, B. CHAU DOC 1926, AND VO VAN NHAN, B. CHAU DOC 1909. NHAN IS CHAIRMAN OF CHAU DOC HOA HAO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER CHAU DOC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

VO QUANG VINH, B. AN GIANG 1932. REMAINING MEMBER OF HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY GROUP BESIDES CANDIDATES OF GENERAL NGUYEN. HE MIGHT PICK UP SOME OF SDP VOTE.

TRAN TAN PHAT, B. CHAU DOC 1909. MEMBER PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

5. OTHER HOA HAO CANDIDATES ARE:

NGUYEN THANH SON, B. CHAU DOC 1915, CANTON CHIEF IN TRI TON DISTRICT;

DO PHU LOC, B. SA DEC 1927, 3 STAR HOA HAO FACTION;

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LY TRANG, B. LONG AN 1930, SAID TO BE SUPPORTED BY LUONG TRONG TUONG;

NGUYEN THUAN HUNG, B. KIEN GIANG 1919. ARVN MAJOR, CA CANDIDATE IN KIEN GIANG 1966.

6. LEADING NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATES:

TRAN QUOC KHANH, B. BINH DINH 1918. GENERALLY CONSIDERED

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TO BE LEADING NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATE (CLOSE TO HALF OF CHAU DOC VOTERS ARE NON-HOA HAO). KHANH IS FROM SAIGON AND IS A YOUNGER BROTHER OF LABOR LEADER TRAN QUOC BUU. OTHER NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATES ARE LT. TRAN VAN NGA, B. CHAU DOC 1935, ASSIGNED TO IV CORPS; LE VAN MUOI, B. CAN THO 1928, A TEACHER; PHAM BA PHUNG, B. QUANG NAM 1933, A REPORTER FROM SAIGON; AND DUONG VY LONG, B. HA NAM 1936, SAID TO BE RELATED TO CHAU DOC POLICE CHIEF.

7. ONLY 2 CANDIDATES FILED FOR CHAU DOC'S SINGLE CAMBODIAN SEAT. THE FAVORED CANDIDATE IS FORMER TRI TON DISTRICT CHIEF MAJOR CHAU SOKAN. OTHER CANDIDATE, FORMER CAPTAIN SON PRUM, IS SAID TO BE RUNNING ONLY SO THAT THERE WILL BE MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, CAMBODIAN DEPUTY WILL BE ELECTED PRIMARILY BY HOA HAO AND

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OTHER NON-CAMBODIAN VOTERS BECAUSE MOST OF CHAU DOC CAMBODIANS LIVE IN INSECURE AREAS. FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, HUYNH VAN LAU IS VERY HOSTILE TO CHAU SOKAN AND IS SUPPORTING SON PRUM. LAU CLAIMS THAT HE HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED BY FACT THAT AFTER HE SUPPORTED THACH SUNG IN LAST YEAR'S CA ELECTION SUNG, WHO IS NOT NATIVE TO CHAU DOC, NEVER RETURNED TO THE PROVINCE. CHAU DOKAN IS CANDIDATE OF FORMER IV CORPS CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS OFFICER LT. COL. KIM KHANH, AS WAS THACH SUNG. SOKAN CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE RUMORS OF THREATS ON HIS LIFE SO THAT HE IS AFRAID TO VISIT SOME RURAL HOA HAO AREAS WHERE LAU IS INFLUI NTIAL. DESPITE LAU'S OPPOSITION, SOKAN IS STILL CONSIDERED FAVORED CAMBODIAN CANDIDATE BECAUSE HE IS KNOWN TO BE MORE ABLE THAN SON PRUM.

8. PUBLIC INTEREST IN CHAU DOC RACE APPEARS LOW. OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED AT PROSPECT OF A CONSIDERABLY LOWER VOTER TURNOUT, WHICH MAY BE CAUSED PARTIALLY BY HIGH WATER (USUAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR) WHICH RESTRICTS MOVEMENT SOMEWHAT.

9. EARLY MORNING OCTOBER 12 VIET CONG SET OFF MINE IN CHAU PHU DISTRICT OFFICE IN PROVINCE CAPTIAL AND FIRED SMALL ARMS AND RECOILESS RIFLE INTO SPECIAL FORCES ADVISORY TEAM COMPOUND IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. THIS SHOW OF VIET CONG STRENGTH MAY ALSO HAVE SOME INHIBITING EFFECT ON VOTER TURNOUT. MINE BLAST DESTROYED PART OF HOME OF CANDIDATE HUYNH VAN LAU.
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